

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its report on The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2008 to 2018. I am off to a Budget Hearing Committee, and this is a lengthy report, but at first glance this is what stands out to me. According to the report, the budget deficit fell in 2007... The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its report on The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2008 to 2018. I am off to a Budget Hearing Committee, and this is a lengthy report, but at first glance this is what stands out to me.

According to the report, the budget deficit fell in 2007 for the third year in a row. It dropped from \$316 billion in 2005 to \$248 billion in 2006 to \$163 billion in 2007. Revenues in 2007 totaled \$2.6 trillion (18% of the GDP), which is a 6.7% increase from the previous year.

In 2008 the federal government is expecting a 3.4% increase in tax revenue despite the economic downturn. So, if government spending could increase by 3.4% or less, the deficit will stay the same or go down. Perish the thought! Who really believes this Congress will hold fast to fiscal responsibility and keep spending below 3.4%? Not me. In that scenario we would actually have a surplus, even in the current economic condition of this country. But back to reality...

The real question is, will Democrats remain within the 3.4% increase in spending?